

Good afternoon!

THEME:

This week's TECH TOOL is the QR code. I've been using QR codes in the classroom all year and the students love it. The QR code, or quick response code, is a type of matrix barcode that is made up of little black data modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. When scanned with a smartphone or Ipad Touch with enabled wifi, they will take the user directly to a particular website. Here is an example:



If you scan the above QR code, you will be taken directly to the OFLA website.

MODE:

All modes of communication can be covered when using QR codes.

TOOLS:

1) Code generators:

www.bqrious.com is my personal favorite, but there are many out there! If you do a Google search of "QR code generator," you will find several to try!

2) QR Code Readers - Smartphone Apps:

I personally use i-nigma or Microsoft Tag with my iPhone (both were free), but again there are many apps out there for both Apple and Android devices. You can find a list of several different apps here: <http://www.708media.com/qrcode/qr-code-readers-iphone-android-blackberry-windows-phone-7/> or simply search the App Store (Apple) or Android Market and check out the reviews.

*There are some (like QR Reader for iPhone - \$.99 for the ad-free version in the App Store) that will do BOTH scan and create QR codes for you. The Android equivalent is called Barcode Scanner. Watch out for the versions with ads - they sometimes won't let you download without the "must be 17 to view content" disclaimer.

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

There are many ways in which you can use QR codes in the classroom. Here are my top 4 favorites:

1) QR code scavenger hunts: - ***See attached documents "Virtual Spelunking-English Version" and "Cave QR Codes"*** for an example of this very cool way to use QR codes!

My absolute favorite activity this year was a QR code scavenger hunt that my French 4 students did when we were studying prehistoric France. I created a "Virtual Spelunking" activity and we explored the painted caves of France. I created QR codes and printed them each on a single piece of plain white paper with a "key word" that corresponded with a section of questions on a task sheet. I then taped them to the walls in various locations throughout the school. Each QR code took the students to a different website - some were simply cave websites that gave information about the caves, others were videos that actually took them inside the caves for a virtual visit. Some were virtual tours without video, but with lots of photos. The task sheet had students answer questions about each of the websites, using the "key words" to help them figure out which website related to which questions. They also had to do things like take a screen shot of their favorite cave painting, or take a screen shot of a particular image that I wanted to be sure they saw. I put students in groups of 2-3 (making sure every group had at least 1 smartphone or iPod Touch). Then, I started each group at a different place in the building (i.e. at a different QR code). There was no particular order for how the websites were to be viewed, so this worked very well. They absolutely LOVED it (and so did my administrators!) I've attached the project task sheet in English so that all language teachers can read it, as well as the QR sheets that I posted around the school.

We are also getting ready to start another scavenger-hunt type of activity, but this one will be student-generated. We have just finished our art unit in French 4, so students are going to be creating their own online art galleries containing their favorite paintings from each genre using Google Art Project. They will tour each others' galleries like we did with the Virtual Spelunking project and read their commentaries, then we will discuss the collections together as a class (ex: Why did you choose the collection? Compare/contrast the works selected in the collection, etc.)

****Disclaimer:** At the beginning of the year, I survey students AND their parents about technology use, cell phone use and available data plans. I made sure that only students with full access and unlimited data were the ones using the phones to complete the activity. I'd be glad to share that survey document - let me know if you are interested.

2) Embed in your class webpage:

I use QR codes every week on my Wiki class pages with direct links to vocab flash cards on quizlet.com. I LOVE using the codes with Quizlet for a couple reasons. First - the full Quizlet website looks great and is very manageable on a smartphone. Second - the students actually USE it. The QR code gives them a direct link to the exact set of flashcards that they need to study, and there are a few options on the Quizlet site to let them review or test themselves on the vocabulary. They can study no matter where they are - in the classroom or on the go. Third- there is a fantastic app available called Flashcards+ (free, in the Apple App store) that directly integrates Quizlet flashcard decks into the app. You can search by language, textbook, theme (EX: -er verbs, food, etc.) and download the already created deck into your deck library. Also, for an extra \$.99 in-app purchase, you can select a human voice to read the flashcards to you (in any language) to practice pronunciation, too!

Example from my French 1 class page for last week:

EXTRA VOCAB AND WRITING PRACTICE:



[**French 1 Cahier d'activites 5-1.doc**](#)

ON THE WEB:



Scan the above QR code with your smart phone or click [HERE](#) to review vocab for Bien Dit! Chapter 5, section 1!

3) To promote your language club activities:

When we have French Club activities, I'll put posters in the hall with basic info for the party, and then add a QR code that takes students to my main Wiki page where they can get more information, sign up to bring snacks, etc.

4) Add to your documents: ****See attached document "French 1 Faire expressions practice" for an example.***

I'll attach a QR code to a worksheet so students can either check their answers or to get more information. EX: If you are learning a new verb, give them some conjugation exercises and then put a QR code on the back so they can scan it and check their answers from websites like <http://www.conjugation-fr.com> or <http://spanishverbconjugator.org/> This works really well with cultural activities, too!

*Those are just my favorites that I use regularly, but you can click the link below for a Slideshare presentation of 40 ways you can use QR codes in the classroom:
<http://www.slideshare.net/jonesytheteacher/40-interesting-ways-to-use-qr-codes-in-the-classroom>

Enjoy!!

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